



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR HEALTH**

**Ernie Fletcher**  
Governor

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**James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D.**  
Secretary

**April 06, 2005**

Dear Kentucky Medicaid Member,

This letter tells you about a change in the Medicaid Drug Program so we can stretch our resources to go further to provide Medicaid services. While making sure that your medical needs are met, we want you and other Medicaid members whenever possible to switch from brand name medicines to less expensive generic medicines which will effectively treat your condition.

Beginning on April 19, 2005, the Medicaid Drug Program will put into place a rule which will **allow only 3 brand name medicines for each Medicaid member every 30 days. You can get as many generic medicines as you need.**

You will continue to get your medicines at the drug store or pharmacy, just as you do now.

**The 3 Brand Name Medicine Rule Does Not Apply:**

1. To children under 19 years of age.
2. To medicines for diabetes.
3. To the following medicines:
  - Zyprexa
  - Geodon
  - Seroquel
  - Abilify
  - Respirdal
  - Clozaril
  - Symbyax
  - Fazoclo



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#### **How Does the 3 Brand Name Medicine Rule Work?**

At the drug store or pharmacy:

- You will show your Kentucky Health Card.
- You will receive all of the generic medicines that your doctor or healthcare provider says you need.
- You will receive up to 3 brand name medicines that you need.

The drug store or pharmacy will give you more than 3 brand name medicines if your doctor or healthcare provider says that you need the medicine because you are sick with one of these conditions:

- Hemophilia
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Alzheimer's Disease
  - Migraine headaches
  - Cancer
  - Thyroid cancer
  - Heart disease
  - High cholesterol
  - High blood pressure and type 2 diabetes at the same time
  - Metabolic syndrome
  - End stage lung disease
  - End stage renal disease (ESRD)
  - Organ transplant
  - Terminal stage of an illness
- The pharmacist will talk to your doctor or healthcare provider about other medicines that can be used. If a different medicine cannot be used, the drug store will give you the brand name medicine.
  - Remember, that the 3 Brand Name Medicine Rule does not apply if you are under 19, need medicines for diabetes or need the Atypical Antipsychotic medicines listed on the first page.
  - The pharmacist cannot refill a prescription if you have more than 5 days' supply left of the medicine. For some medicines, (e.g., those that treat ADHD) prescriptions cannot be refilled until the day they expire because of Federal law.

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- You can get a 3- month supply of certain medicines so you do not have to go to the drug store as often. Ask your drug store for a 3 month supply of medicine if you take drugs for:
  - High blood pressure
  - Heart problems
  - Thyroid problems
  - Arthritis
  - Birth control
  - Hormones

**How Do I Get More Information about the 3 Brand Name Medicine Rule?**

You can call the First Health Member Services Desk at **1-800-635-2570** to ask your questions. The phone is answered Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Your doctor or healthcare provider can call 1-800-477-3071 with questions.

There is also information about the Medicaid Drug Program on the KY Medicaid Pharmacy web site, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/Pharmacy.htm> if you have internet access.

We appreciate your cooperation in putting the 3 Brand Name Medicine Rule into place.

Sincerely,



Shannon R. Turner, J.D.  
Commissioner

Xc: DMS Pharmacy 3 Brand Member Letter

SRT/CS/JH/amd